

AMENDED CLAIMS

1. An implant, in particular an intervertebral implant, comprising:

(A) two articulating parts (4; 5) each having a central axis (1; 26), each having a slide surface (6; 7) intersecting the central axes (1; 26) and each having an outermost end (14; 15) which can be connected to a bone, where

(B) the slide surfaces (6; 7) are curved,

(C) the slide surfaces are mutually displaceable, and

(D) the second slide surface (5) is rotatable about two skewed axes of rotation (10;

10) relative to the first articulating part (4),

(E) the outermost ends (14; 15) of the articulating parts each comprise a connection element (2; 3), where

(F) a connecting element (2; 3) is fitted with an oval recess (37) coaxial with the central axis (1; 26) to receive the outermost end (14; 15) of the adjoining articulating part (4; 5)

characterized in that

(G) the recess (37) is fitted with an axially terminal cavity (39) and in that the outermost end (14; 15) of the adjacent articulating part (4; 5) comprises a widening (38) coaxial with the central axis (1; 26), said widening being insertable into the cavity (39),

20 and

(H) the slide surfaces (6; 7) are saddle-shaped.

2. Implant as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the slide surfaces (6;

7) each comprise a saddle point.

3. Implant as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the axes of rotation (10; 11) cross each other at an angle between 80 and 100°.

4. Implant as claimed in one of claims 1 through 3, characterized in that the axes of rotation (10; 11) are apart a minimum distance A that is between 0.1 and 20 mm.

5. Implant as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the distance A is between 2 and 20 mm.

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6. Implant as claimed in one of claims 1 through 6, characterized in the slide surfaces (6; 7) each comprise a saddle-point (8; 9) where, when the second articulating part (5) is rotated about each of the axes of rotation (10; 11), the second saddle point (9) moves along an arc of circle (12; 14) concentric with the particular axis of rotation (10; 11).

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7. Implant as claimed in one of claims 1 through 6, characterized in that, in the initial position, the slide surfaces (6; 7) are congruent at coaxial central axes (1; 26) of the articulating parts (4; 5).

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8. Implant as claimed in one of claims 1 through 7, characterized in that the connection elements (2; 3) are designed as cover plates (12; 13) each with an axially outermost surface (16; 17) transverse to the central axes (1; 26).

9. Implant as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that one of the cover plates (12; 13) is integral with the adjoining articulating part (5).

5 10. Implant as claimed in either of claims 8 and 9, characterized one of the cover plates (12) is fitted with a guide (20) perpendicular to the central axis (1) and in that the adjoining articulating part (4) comprises a rear end (14) insertable into the guide (20).

10 11. Implant as claimed in one of claims 1 through 10, characterized in that one of the articulating parts (4; 5) may be rotated about its central axis (1; 26) in order to be assembled to the associated connection element (2; 3).

15 12. Implant as claimed in one of claims 1 through 11, characterized in that one of the articulating parts (4; 5) may be displaced in a plane perpendicular to its central axis (1: 26) in order to be assembled to the associated connection element (2; 3).

20 13. Implant as claimed in one of claims 1 through 12, characterized in that one of the articulating parts (4; 5) is displaceable in a plane perpendicular to its central axis (1; 26) in order to be assembled to the associated connection element (2; 3)

14. Implant as claimed in one of claims 1 through 13, characterized in that one of the articulating parts (4; 5) is made of plastic.

25 15. Implant as claimed in one of claims 1 through 14, characterized in that at least one of the articulating parts (4; 5) is made of a ceramic.